1   Abstract

2   A data-driven, hierarchical information search and navigation system and method

3   enable search and navigation of sets of documents or other materials by certain common

4   attributes that characterize the materials. The invention includes several aspects of a data-

5   driven, hierarchical search and navigation system that employs this search and navigation

6   mode. The search and navigation system of the present invention includes features of an

7   navigation interface, a search interface, a knowledge base and a taxonomy definition

8   process and a classification process for generating the knowledge base, a graph-based

9   navigable data structure and method for generating the data structure, World Wide Web-

10   based applications of the system, and methods of implementing the system. Users are

11   able to search or browse a particular collection of documents by selecting desired values

12   for the attributes or by searching the attribute-value pairs. A data-driven, hierarchical

13   information search and navigation system and method enable this navigation mode by

14   associating terms with the materials, defining a set of hierarchical relationships among

15   the terms, providing a guided navigation mechanism based on the relationship between

16   the terms, and providing a search mechanism that can respond to free-text queries with

17   single-term or multi-term interpretations. In another aspect of the invention,

18   implementations of the invention may be scalable through parallel or distributed

19   computation.